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NOTE VERBALE DATED 3 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations, in its capacity as Coordinator of the Council of Ministers of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, presents its compliments to the President of the Security Council of the United Nations and has the honour to request that the annexed document of the regular session of the Council of Ministers of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, held in Cascais, Portugal, on 22 July 1999, be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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Annex

Regular session of the Council of Ministers of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, Cascais, Portugal, 22 July 1999

1. The Ministers for Foreign Relations of the Republic of Angola, the Federal Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of Mozambique, the Portuguese Republic and the Democratic Republic of São Tome and Principe met for the fourth regular session of the Council of Ministers of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) in Cascais, Portugal, on 22 July 1999. They elected His Excellency João Miranda, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola, President of the Council of Ministers of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries.

2. The Ministers noted with appreciation the report presented by the outgoing Presidency of Cape Verde covering measures adopted during its tenure in office that were relevant to the consolidation and affirmation of the CPLP.

3. The Ministers analysed the report presented by the Executive Secretariat of the CPLP on activities undertaken in 1998 and 1999. They noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the internal structuring and in the functioning of the Executive Secretariat. Additionally, they noted those actions related to establishing the CPLP within intra-community and international plans, as well as efforts made to obtain observer status with other international organizations.

4. The Ministers took note of projects approved and executed with the support of the member States and the Special Fund and noted with pleasure important initiatives and assistance received from civil society, primarily through events and projects that contributed significantly to accomplishing objectives established in the Constitutional Declaration of the CPLP.

5. The Ministers took note, with satisfaction, of the adoption of a "Triennial plan of action for educational cooperation between member States of the CPLP" that resulted from the conclusions and recommendations of the second Conference of Heads of State and Government. They were pleased with the results of technical meetings held in Lisbon and Luanda in the area of education statistics and long-distance learning.

The Ministers examined the process of promoting and transmitting the Portuguese language, having recommended the continuation of actions leading to the nomination of the management staff of the International Portuguese Language Institute. This was done in consideration of adopting their plan of activities, in accordance with the conclusions reached at the second Conference of Heads of State and Government.

6. The Ministers took note of the report on the activities of the Special Fund in 1998 and 1999 and approved the accounting and budget report, as well as that of the Special Fund for 1997 and 1998 and the proposed budget for the Executive Secretariat for 1999 and 2000.

7. The Ministers were pleased about the first meeting of the focal points of Cooperation, held within the framework of the implementation of the General Cooperation Agreement. They recommended that, in the future, the Permanent Agreement Committee undertake the analysis and approval of reports of that body as procedure.

8. The Ministers approved the regulations of the Special Fund, in accordance with the recommendation of the Praia Summit, an important instrument designed to consolidate the organization, project the image of the Community, promote the Portuguese language, develop cooperation between member States and mobilize resources for cooperation. In this regard, they considered the necessity of concentrating resources of the Special Fund on actions of a structural character with a direct impact on development of member States. The Ministers tasked the Executive Secretariat to prepare a plan for the utilization of the Special Fund.

9. The Ministers listened to information provided by the Angolan Minister of External Relations and expressed their deepest concern regarding the gravity of the situation in that member State.

They then welcomed the decision on Angola approved at the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Summit in Algeria. They expressed their strong condemnation of the persistent and indiscriminate attacks unleashed against the civilian population, in flagrant violation of the Lusaka Protocol and United Nations Security Council resolutions, by UNITA military forces under the orders of Jonas Savimbi.

Such criminal actions provoke and aggravate the humanitarian situation and represent a serious threat to peace, stability and sustained development in the central and southern region of the African continent. For that reason, it is considered of critical importance that all member States of the United Nations strictly and unambiguously implement pertinent Security Council resolutions in order to end the military support and assistance, including recruitment and utilization of mercenaries.

The Ministers reiterated their total solidarity with the Government of Unity and National Reconciliation of the Republic of Angola in its efforts in behalf of the defence of territorial integrity, peace and democracy. They encouraged the implementation of measures adopted to alleviate the country's economic crisis.

The Ministers noted with pleasure efforts undertaken by the United Nations agencies in Angola in the area of humanitarian assistance. They urged the international community to continue to respond positively to the appeal from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to increase aid to civilian populations affected, particularly to those displaced by war in Angola.

The Ministers decided that the CPLP would contribute, in partnership with other international organizations, humanitarian assistance to minimize the suffering of Angolan war victims.

10. The Ministers listened to information provided by the Minister of External Relations of Guinea-Bissau and noted with appreciation the results achieved by

the Accords of Praia, Abuja and Lomé for the resolution of the conflict in Guinea-Bissau. In that context, they stressed the role played by member States of the CPLP and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the search for a lasting peace and national reconciliation in Guinea-Bissau.

The Ministers took pleasure in the active solidarity demonstrated by the international community for the people of Guinea-Bissau and urged that financial, technical and material support be maintained to the member State. This would permit the country to hold elections on the prescribed date and initiate, as soon as possible, the execution of a national reconstruction programme in accordance with pledges made at the emergency round table in Geneva last May.

The Ministers expressed their desire to see successful consultations between Guinea-Bissau and the European Union, under the auspices of the Lomé Convention, with a view towards the concession of the necessary support for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of that member State.

11. The Ministers listened to information provided by the Mozambican Minister of External Relations and Cooperation regarding the positive results achieved in implementing the five-year programme by the Mozambican Government, particularly in the consolidation of peace and stability, in the reinforcing of democracy and in the economic and social rehabilitation of the country.

The Ministers also expressed their conviction that the essential conditions exist to successfully achieve the second general, multiparty elections in Mozambique at the end of 1999. They will be carried out under the mandate of the National Election Commission comprised of political groups with the assent of the Assembly of the Republic.

12. The Ministers expressed their total support for the process defined by the agreement of 5 May between Portugal and Indonesia on East Timor. In that context, and under the terms of the agreement regarding the modalities of the consultation process, the Ministers deliberated over the constitution of an observation mission to monitor the consultation process that will be conducted by the United Nations in East Timor. The consultation code of conduct adopted by the United Nations was available during the discussions.

The Ministers registered their satisfaction with the cooperation shown by member countries of the CPLP in mobilizing personnel for the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) in order to guarantee the success of consultations.

The Ministers expressed their great concern over the persistent insecurity in the territory and called upon Indonesian authorities, in particular their armed forces, to respect the neutral status to which they are obligated and put an end to the instigating of violence and intimidation so that conditions will be created for genuinely free and democratic consultations.

The Ministers welcomed the constructive posture of Xanana Gusmao, President of the National Resistance Commission, in the permanent search for peace and stability for East Timor and the persistent efforts to build a solid platform

for reconciliation and national unity. They reiterated the necessity to grant his immediate release, as well as that of all Timorese prisoners.

The Ministers expressed the availability of the CPLP to work in partnership with other organizations to provide East Timor with necessary assistance.

13. The Ministers emphasized the importance of holding a summit in Cairo between the European Community and the nations of Africa during the Portuguese presidency of the European Union in the first half of the year 2000. They consider that this summit will provide a unique opportunity to redefine and deepen the existing partnership between the two regions.

14. The Ministers accepted with satisfaction the invitation for the next meeting of the Council to take place in Mozambique and took note of the request by Mozambique to other member States and the Executive Secretariat to support its efforts to organize the third Conference of Heads of State and Government in Maputo in 2000.

15. The Ministers expressed to Portugal and to the city of Cascais their thanks for the warm welcome and fraternal hospitality shown to all participants at the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the CPLP.